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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Takashi USUKURA

Confirmation No. 4460

Serial No. 09/739,237

Group 2661

Filed January 10, 2001

PRIORITY CONTROL METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Technology Center 2600

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in fulfillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese Application Serial No. 11-361899, filed December 20, 1999. A copy of the Japanese Official Action in which they were cited is attached hereto, with what is believed to be the pertinent portion enclosed in a wavy line. An English translation of the enclosed portion is also attached hereto.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a

S.N. 09/739,237

counterpart foreign application not more than three months
prior to the filing of this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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